

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SAJ-01 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /111 W

----- 014897

R 221725Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4444

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, XT, IT

SUBJECT: CGIL AND ETUC

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REF: BRUSSELS 2199

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. CISL OFFICIALS NOTE CGIL READINESS CARRY OUT STEPS CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR CGIL ADMISSION TO ETUC, INCLUDING COMPLETE DISAFFILIATION FROM WFTU. IN SPITE OF THIS AND IN SPITE OF FACT THAT ICFTU AND ETUC SHOULD DEFER TO OPINION ITALIAN MEMBERS (CISL AND UIL), ITALIANS NOW FEEL THAT CGIL MAY NOT BE ADMITTED TO ETUC AT MAY CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. CISL POINT OF VIEW CONCERNING SOME OF ISSUES RAISED AT APRIL 10 MEETING BETWEEN LEADERS OF EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) AND THE CGIL IS INTERESTING IN ITS DIVERGENCE FROM RECOLLECTION THIS MEETING GIVEN BY ICFTU SOURCES. ACCORDING FABRIZIA BADUEL, DIRECTOR OF CISL INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, THE GERMAN DGB POSED SEVERAL QUESTIONS AND SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF NATURE CGIL ASSOCIATE STATUS WITHIN WFTU. CGIL SECRETARY GENERAL LAMA POINTED OUT THAT CGIL HAS NOW MODIFIED ITS STATUTES TO REFLECT ASSOCIATE STATUS AND HE REPORTEDLY ASSERTED THAT THIS MEANT THE CGIL WAS NO LONGER SUBJECT TO WFTU DISCIPLINE OR POLICY LINE. ALTHOUGH NOT STATED AT THE MEETING CGIL IS LETTING IT BE KNOWN THAT IT MIGHT FULLY SEVER ITS WFTU LINK A YEAR OR SO FOLLOWING AFFILIATION TO ETUC. CISL SECGEN STORTI TOLD EMBASSY THAT HIS PERSONAL OPINION IS THAT A CGIL IN ETUC WOULD COMPLETELY SEVER WFTU TIES IN NEAR FUTURE. CGIL ALSO REPORTEDLY POSED NO OBJECTION TO SPECIAL STATUS OF ICFTU WITH ETUC NOR TO CONTINUED AFFILIATION ETUC UNIONS WITH ICFTU.

3. CGIL ACCORDING TO BADUEL COMMITTED ITSELF TO DISSOLVE THE BRUSSELS BASED CGIL-CGY (FRANCE) PERMANENT COMMITTEE; INDEED CGIL CLAIMS THIS COMMITTEE IN EFFECT ALREADY DISBANDED. ALL THAT IS LACKING IS PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEMISE.

4. FACT THAT BOTH ETUC PRESIDENT FEATHER AND BELGIAN FGTB LEADER DEBUNNE ABSENT FROM THE APRIL 10 GATHERING CONSIDERED UNFORTUNATE BUT CISL NOT CONVINCED FEATHER DEFERRING TO DGB ON ISSUE CGIL ENTRY. FEATHER SUPPOSEDLY ABSENT ONLY BECAUSE ON APRIL 10 HE BECAME LORD FEATHER. CISL AND UIL HOWEVER REPORTEDLY CONCERNED AT LACK OF DEFERENCE THEIR VIEWS IN FAVOR OF CGIL ADMISSION. ACCORDING BADUEL ITALIANS NOTED AT APRIL 10 MEETING THAT JULY 1973 VIENNA DECISION OF ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CLEARLY CALLED UPON ICFTU TO RESPECT POSITION TAKEN BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN THEIR CONTACTS

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WITH COMMUNIST UNIONS. THIS CONSTRUED TO MEAN ETUC SHOULD RESPECT POSITION OF CISL AND UIL IN MATTER OF CGIL ENTRY.

5. CONCERNING PERCEIVED THREAT OF ITALIAN (CISL AND UIL) DISAFFILIATION FROM THE ICFTU SHOULD THE CGIL FAIL TO GAIN ADMISSION TO THE ETUC, CISL SECGEN STORTI TOLD STATE DEPARTMENT (GOOTT) AND EMBASSY OFFICIAL THAT ITALIANS SUPPORT ICFTU IN HOPES THAT AFL-CIO WILL RETURN TO REVITALIZE IT AND BECAUSE THE ICFTU

HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ITALIANS DID, ACCORDING STORTI, MAKE IT CLEAR AT APRIL 10 MEETING THAT THEIR FIRST CONCERN WAS EUROPE - IN FACT SHOULD LABOR UNITY BECOME REALITY IN ITALY IT IS AGREED THAT ITALIAN UNION WOULD AFFILIATE ONLY TO ETUC.

6. CONSIDERED VIEW OF CISL AND UIL NOW IS THAT CGIL WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO ETUC AT MAY CONGRESS. DECISION WILL BE POSTPONED PENDING ICFTU OPINION ON MATTER, AND AFFILIATION WILL BE APPROVED BY NEW ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. IT IS FELT, HOWEVER, THAT SHOULD THERE BE EXCESSIVE DELAY, CGIL MAY MODIFY TACTICS AND DECIDE TO SEEK ADMISSION ONLY IF FRENCH CGT (WHICH HAS SUBMITTED REQUEST FOR ADMISSION) ALSO ACCEPTED. CGIL NOW HINTING AT THIS POSSIBLE LINKAGE WITH CGT IN HOPES OF FORCING ISSUE AND GAINING ACCEPTANCE BEFORE COPENHAGEN CONGRESS.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME05595
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740094-0289
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740424/aaaaavjk.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BRUSSELS 2199
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CGIL AND ETUC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: ELAB, XT, IT, WFTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005